



March 14, 2023

Senate Housing and Homelessness Prevention Committee
3213 Minnesota Senate Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: SF 2566 (Strengthening Supportive Housing)

Dear Chair Port and Members of the Committee;

Project for Pride in Living supports SF 2566, a bill to provide funding that will strengthen new and existing supportive housing projects.

For over 50 years, PPL has worked to build the hope, assets, and self-reliance of individuals and families who have lower incomes by providing transformative affordable housing and career readiness services. PPL owns, manages or provides services for 1500 units of affordable housing in which close to 3,500 folks spend the night under a PPL roof every night, nearly half of them children. Half of our units are considered supportive housing, serving households making 30% or less of area median income.

For more than a decade, Minnesota has struggled to keep up with the demands of housing Minnesota's growing population and has seen an ever-growing number of folks challenged with housing costs and instability. In addition to producing more housing, it is becoming increasingly difficult to continue to operate supportive housing in the current economic environment. Recent growth in key cost drivers, most notably in our property tax, insurance, utilities, staffing and security expenses are making it increasingly difficult to operate supportive housing in a way that preserves the dignity of our residents and ensures the ability to continue to provide quality affordable housing for our communities across the region. Additionally, behavioral health challenges, community safety, and domestic violence require deeper supportive services to assist households achieve and maintain housing stability. The last three years of pandemic have markedly accelerated these challenges and program financial losses.

SF 2566 will bring much needed resources to supportive housing projects by supporting building operations such as front desk, tenant service coordination, revenue shortfall, and security costs. As our state works to address the current housing and homelessness crisis, we ask for your support of SF 2566.

Sincerely,

Paul Williams
President and CEO
Project for Pride in Living

